clearly define the invention.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

STEINBERG & RASKIN, P.C.

Martin G. Raskin
Reg. No. 25,642

By /Paul T. Higgins/
Paul T. Higgins
Reg. No. 44,152

Steinberg & Raskin, P.C.
1140 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
Tel.: (212) 768-3800

Encls.
- Un-Marked Version of the Claims as Amended

CLAIMS

1. A recombinant nucleotide sequence identified as SEQ ID 1 that encodes a protein sequence corresponding to a metallocarboxypeptidase inhibitor from *Hirudo medicinalis*.

2. (Amended) A polypeptide sequence encoded by the nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, wherein it comprises the sequence identified as SEQ ID N° 2 of the list of sequences.

3. A polypeptide sequence according to claim 2, wherein such sequence is homologous to the sequence identified as SEQ N° 2.

4. A nucleotide sequence that comprises a coding sequence of a polypeptide homologous to the sequence ID N° 2 according to claim 2.

5. (Amended) A prokaryotic or eukaryotic expression vector wherein it comprises the recombinant nucleotide sequence of claim 1, and in that it is able to express the biologically active metallocarboxypeptidase inhibitor.

6. (Amended) A transformed *Escherichia coli* cell wherein it comprises an expression vector according to claim 5 and in that it is able to produce the biologically active metallocarboxypeptidase inhibitor.

7. (Amended) A procedure to prepare a recombinant metallocarboxypeptidase inhibitor identified as SEQ ID 2 according to claim 2, wherein it comprises

(i) the culture of the transformant that contains an expression vector capable of expressing a biologically active metallocarboxypeptidase inhibitor; and

(ii) its obtention and purification.

8. (Amended) A procedure according to claim 7 wherein the recombinant process takes place in a prokaryotic or eukaryotic host.

9. (Amended) A metallocarboxypeptidase inhibitor according to claim 2, as fibrinolytic agent.

10. (Amended) Use of the metallocarboxypeptidase inhibitor according to claim 2, to prepare a drug useful as fibrinolytic agent.

11. Use of the metallocarboxypeptidase inhibitor according to claim 10, in combination with other fibrinolytic agents which it complements or enhances, to prepare a drug useful as fibrinolytic agent.

12. A pharmaceutical composition that comprises, as active agent, an effective quantity of a metallocarboxypeptidase inhibitor identified as SEQ ID 2, or its derivatives, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

13. (New) A prokaryotic or eukaryotic expression vector wherein it comprises the recombinant nucleotide sequence of claim 2, and in that it is able to express the biologically active metallocarboxypeptidase inhibitor.

14. (New) A prokaryotic or eukaryotic expression vector wherein it comprises the recombinant nucleotide sequence of claim 3, and in that it is able to express the biologically active metallocarboxypeptidase inhibitor.

15. (New) A prokaryotic or eukaryotic expression vector wherein it comprises the recombinant nucleotide sequence of claim 4, and in that it is able to express the biologically active metallocarboxypeptidase inhibitor.

16. (New) A procedure to prepare a recombinant metallocarboxypeptidase inhibitor identified as SEQ ID 2 according to claim 3, wherein it comprises

(i) the culture of the transformant that contains an expression vector capable of expressing a biologically active metallocarboxypeptidase inhibitor; and

(ii) its obtention and purification.

17. (New) A metallocarboxypeptidase inhibitor according to claim 3, as fibrinolytic agent.

18. (New) Use of the metallocarboxypeptidase inhibitor according to claim 3, to prepare a drug useful as fibrinolytic agent.